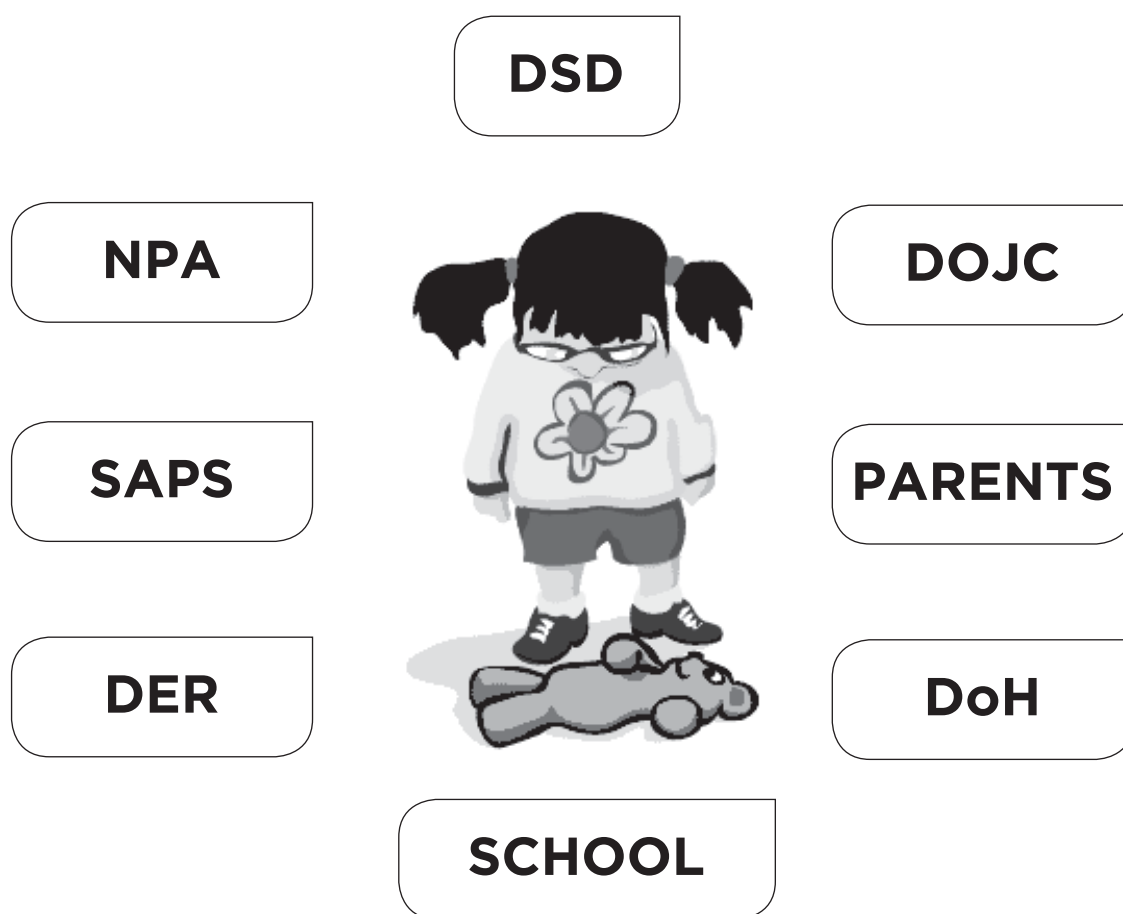


Section 4

4. RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE RELEVANT ROLE-PLAYERS

- a) Dealing effectively with child abuse demands a multi-disciplinary approach in order to provide for the needs of the complainant (learner victim) holistically.
- b) The effective management of abuse therefore depends on collaboration, co-ordination and co-operation between the various role-players and service providers during the intervention process, and each institution should formulate a way to liaise effectively with all of them.



4.1 South African Police Service

- (a) Receive and investigate complaint.
- (b) Obtain sworn statements from the complainant (learner victim), his/her parents and other relevant witnesses.
- (c) Arrest the alleged offenders.
- (d) Take learner victim for a medical examination where applicable.
- (e) Take the accused to court within 48 hours after arrest or 24 hours after arrest in the case of a minor.

4.2 Medical Services

- (a) Conduct forensic medical examination in the case of a sexual offence.
- (b) Administer relevant tests such as HIV and pregnancy.
- (c) Collect forensic evidence to be used in a court case.
- (d) Provide medication to protect the health of the learner victim.
- (e) Record all findings on a medico-legal document (J88) with an accompanying 212 (4) affidavit.

4.3 Department of Justice and Constitutional Development

- (a) Via Commissioners of Children's Courts protect children from further abuse by an order of the Children's Court.
- (b) Protect the child from abuse by way of Protection Orders (interdicts).
- (c) Provide relevant courts to bring offender to trial.
- (d) Subpoena witnesses to appear in court.
- (e) Provide interpreters so that the proceedings can take place in the language of the learner victim and the alleged offender.

4.4 Social Workers of the Department of Social Development and Designated Child Protection Organisations

- (a) Ensure the safety of the learner victim.
- (b) Investigate the incident where compelled to do so and compile a report for the Children's Court or the Criminal Court.
- (c) Provide immediate trauma debriefing and/or long term counselling directly or through a non-governmental organisation.
- (d) Assist by preparing the learner victim and parents, regarding court procedure.
- (e) Render reconstructive services to the learner victim and his or her family.

4.5 National Prosecuting Authority

- (a) Provide assistance through the Thuthuzela Care Centres (if one exists in the school's jurisdiction).
- (b) Prosecutors to prosecute the matter when it gets to court.
- (c) Consult with the learner victim in preparation for trial.
- (d) Court Preparation Officers employed by the NPA to assist with preparing learner victims for the court process.

4.6 Directorate: Employee Relations of the Western Cape Education Department

- (a) Investigate all complaints, ensuring that the learner victim's safety, privacy and confidentiality are maintained at all times.
- (b) Suspend an alleged employee offender immediately, as a precautionary measure, where there is sufficient evidence to do so.
- (c) Serve charges on the employee.
- (d) Proceed with a disciplinary inquiry in a manner which protects the interests and the special needs of the learner victim (s) and other child witness(es).

4.7 School Governing Body (SGB)

- (a) Assist with an investigation and hearing regarding the allegation(s) of abuse (sexual offences or other abuses) by an employee.
- (b) Convene a hearing as soon as possible and make a decision concerning the termination of the employment contract of such an employee, depending on the outcome of the hearing.